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LETTER DATED 8 DECEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward the attached press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea on 8 December 1999, on Ethiopia's formal rejection of the peace plan of the Organization of African Unity (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea on 8 December 1999

Ethiopia formally rejects the Organization of African Unity peace plan

The Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF) regime has formally rejected the peace package of the Organization of African Unity. This announcement was made by the TPLF Prime Minister during a television interview.

TPLF has rejected the peace plan of the Organization of African Unity in its entirety. Indeed, the TPLF Prime Minister unabashedly demands that Eritrea "declare its recognition of Ethiopian sovereignty over these territories". This contravenes the fundamental tenets of the Framework Agreement and the modalities of its implementation which state that the status of these territories shall be determined through demarcation.

This formal rejection comes as no surprise to Eritrea, which, for months now, has been warning of an Ethiopian plan to circumvent demarcation. The timing, however, indicates that the regime in Addis Ababa has completed its preparations and is poised to launch a war of aggression.